

(1) by striking “section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a))” and inserting “item (a) or (b) of section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii))”; and

(2) by inserting “or forestry” after “agricultural”.

SEC. 770. DESIGNATION OF PROGRAM COUNTRIES.

Section 217(c)(1) (8 U.S.C. 1187(c)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as any country fully meets the requirements under paragraph (2), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall designate such country as a program country.”

SEC. 771. GLOBAL HEALTHCARE COOPERATION.

(a) GLOBAL HEALTHCARE COOPERATION.—Title III (8 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 317 the following:

“SEC. 317A. TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF ALIENS PROVIDING HEALTHCARE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall allow an eligible alien and the spouse or child of such alien to reside in a candidate country during the period that the eligible alien is working as a physician or other healthcare worker in a candidate country. During such period the eligible alien and such spouse or child shall be considered—

“(1) to be physically present and residing in the United States for purposes of naturalization under section 316(a); and

“(2) to meet the continuous residency requirements under section 316(b).

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) CANDIDATE COUNTRY.—The term ‘candidate country’ means a country that the Secretary of State determines is—

“(A) eligible for assistance from the International Development Association, in which the per capita income of the country is equal to or less than the historical ceiling of the International Development Association for the applicable fiscal year, as defined by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development;

“(B) classified as a lower middle income country in the then most recent edition of the World Development Report for Reconstruction and Development published by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and having an income greater than the historical ceiling for International Development Association eligibility for the applicable fiscal year; or

“(C) qualifies to be a candidate country due to special circumstances, including natural disasters or public health emergencies.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ALIEN.—The term ‘eligible alien’ means an alien who—

“(A) has been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence; and

“(B) is a physician or other healthcare worker.

“(c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall consult with the Secretary of State in carrying out this subsection.

“(d) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary of State shall publish—

“(1) not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006, and annually thereafter, a list of candidate countries; and

“(2) an immediate amendment to such list at any time to include any country that qualifies as a candidate country due to special circumstances under subsection (b)(1)(C).”

(b) RULEMAKING.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to carry out the amendments made by this section.

(2) CONTENT.—The regulations required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) permit an eligible alien (as defined in section 317A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by subsection (a)) and the spouse or child of the eligible alien to reside in a foreign country to work as a physician or other healthcare worker as described in subsection (a) of such section 317A for not less than a 12-month period and not more than a 24-month period, and shall permit the Secretary to extend such period for an additional period not to exceed 12 months, if the Secretary determines that such country has a continuing need for such a physician or other healthcare worker;

(B) provide for the issuance of documents by the Secretary to such eligible alien, and such spouse or child, if appropriate, to demonstrate that such eligible alien, and such spouse or child, if appropriate, is authorized to reside in such country under such section 317A; and

(C) provide for an expedited process through which the Secretary shall review applications for such an eligible alien to reside in a foreign country pursuant to subsection (a) of such section 317A if the Secretary of State determines a country is a candidate country pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(C) of such section 317A.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Immigration and Nationality Act is amended as follows:

(1) Section 101(a)(13)(C)(ii) (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(13)(C)(ii)) is amended by adding at the end “except in the case of an eligible alien, or the spouse or child of such alien, authorized to be absent from the United States pursuant to section 317A.”

(2) Section 211(b) (8 U.S.C. 1181(b)) is amended by inserting “, including an eligible alien authorized to reside in a foreign country pursuant to section 317A and the spouse or child of such eligible alien, if appropriate,” after “101(a)(27)(A).”

(3) Section 212(a)(7)(A)(i)(I) (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(7)(A)(i)(I)) is amended by inserting “other than an eligible alien authorized to reside in a foreign country pursuant to section 317A and the spouse or child of such eligible alien, if appropriate,” after “Act.”

(4) Section 319(b)(1)(B) (8 U.S.C. 1430(b)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting “an eligible alien who is residing or has resided in a foreign country pursuant to section 317A” before “and” at the end.

(5) The table of contents is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 317 the following:

“Sec. 317A. Temporary absence of aliens providing healthcare in developing countries.”

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section and the amendments made by this section.

SEC. 772. ATTESTATION BY HEALTHCARE WORKERS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR ATTESTATION.—Section 212(a)(5) (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(5)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) HEALTHCARE WORKERS WITH OTHER OBLIGATIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An alien who seeks to enter the United States for the purpose of performing labor as a physician or other healthcare worker is inadmissible unless the alien submits to the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Secretary of State, as appropriate, an attestation that the alien is not

seeking to enter the United States for such purpose during any period in which the alien has an outstanding obligation to the government of the alien’s country of origin or the alien’s country of residence.

“(ii) OBLIGATION DEFINED.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘obligation’ means an obligation incurred as part of a valid, voluntary individual agreement in which the alien received financial assistance to defray the costs of education or training to qualify as a physician or other healthcare worker in consideration for a commitment to work as a physician or other healthcare worker in the alien’s country of origin or the alien’s country of residence.

“(iii) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may waive a finding of inadmissibility under clause (i) if the Secretary determines that—

“(I) the obligation was incurred by coercion or other improper means;

“(II) the alien and the government of the country to which the alien has an outstanding obligation have reached a valid, voluntary agreement, pursuant to which the alien’s obligation has been deemed satisfied, or the alien has shown to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the alien has been unable to reach such an agreement because of coercion or other improper means; or

“(III) the obligation should not be enforced due to other extraordinary circumstances, including undue hardship that would be suffered by the alien in the absence of a waiver.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall become effective 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) APPLICATION BY THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall begin to carry out the subparagraph (E) of section 212(a)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(5)), as added by subsection (a), not later than the effective date described in paragraph (1), including the requirement for the attestation and the granting of a waiver described in such subparagraph, regardless of whether regulations to implement such subparagraph have been promulgated.

SEC. 773. PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE STATUE OF LIBERTY.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall ensure that all persons who satisfy reasonable and appropriate security measures shall have full access to the public areas of the Statue of Liberty, including the crown and the stairs leading thereto.

On page 12, line 1, strike “(e)” and insert the following:

(e) UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE PILOT PROGRAM.—During the 1-year period beginning on the date on which the report is submitted under subsection (c), the Secretary shall conduct a pilot program to test unmanned aerial vehicles for border surveillance along the international border between Canada and the United States.

(f)

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, June 8, 2006 at 10 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nomination of: Philip D. Moeller, of Washington, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2010, vice Patrick Henry Wood III, resigned; and Jon Wellinghoff, of Nevada, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2008, vice William Lloyd Massey, term expired.

For further information, please contact Judy Pensabene of the Committee staff.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 25, 2006, at 11:30 a.m., to receive a briefing on the status of on-going investigations into an incident involving Iraqi civilians on November 19, 2005, near Haditha.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 25, 2006, at 10 a.m., to mark up an original bill entitled "The Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2006."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce Science and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, May 25, 2006, at 10 a.m. on S. 2686, the Communications, Consumers' Choice, and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006. This is the second hearing on this act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 25 at 10 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony regarding the outlook for growth of coal fired electric generation and whether sufficient supplies of coal will be available to supply electric generators on a timely basis both in the near term and in the future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be author-

ized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 25, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on A Status Report on United Nations Reform.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 25, 2006, at 3 p.m. to hold a hearing on Nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, May 25, 2006, at 10 a.m. for a joint hearing with the Committee on Veterans' Affairs titled, "VA Data Privacy Breach: Twenty-Six Million People Deserve Answers."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to hold an off-the-floor markup during the session on Thursday, May 25, 2006, to consider the nominations of R. David Paulson to be Under Secretary for Federal Emergency Management, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and Lurita Alexis Doan to be Administrator, U.S. General Services Administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, May 25, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on Indian Education.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, May 25, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226. The agenda will be provided when it becomes available.

Tentative Agenda

I. Nominations: Sandra Segal Ikuta, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit; Kenneth L. Wainstein, to be an Assistant Attorney General; Erik C. Peterson, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin; Charles P. Rosenberg, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

II. Bills: S. 2453—National Security Surveillance Act of 2006 [Specter], S. 2455—Terrorist Surveillance Act of 2006

[DeWine, Graham], S. 2468—A bill to provide standing for civil actions for declaratory and injunctive relief to persons who refrain from electronic communications through fear of being subject to warrantless electronic surveillance for foreign intelligence purposes, and for other purposes [Schumer], S. 2039—Prosecutors and Defendants Incentive Act of 2005 [Durbin, Specter, DeWine, Leahy, Kennedy, Feinstein, Feingold, Schumer, Biden] and S. 2560—Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 [Specter, Biden, Hatch, Grassley].

III. Matters: S.J. Res. 12, Flag Desecration resolution [Hatch, Feinstein, Brownback, Coburn, Cornyn, DeWine, Graham, Grassley, Kyl, Sessions, Specter].

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 25, 2006, for a joint hearing with the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs to hold a hearing titled "VA Data Privacy Breach: Twenty-Six Million People Deserve Answers". The meeting will take place in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet Thursday, May 25, 2006 from 10.m.-12 p.m. in Dirksen G50 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights be authorized to meet on Thursday, May 25, 2006 at 1 p.m. to conduct a hearing on "The Consequences of Legalized Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia" in Room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The witness list will be provided when it becomes available.

Panel I: Members of Congress TBA.

Panel II: Julie McMurchie, Portland, OR; Hendrick Reitsema, Eck en Wiel, The Netherlands; Jonathan Imbody, Senior Policy Analyst, Christian Medical Association, Ashburn, VA.

Panel III: Wesley Smith, Senior Fellow, Discovery Institute, Castro Valley, CA; Kathryn Tucker, Director of Legal Affairs, Compassion and Choices, Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, WA; Rita Marker, Executive Director, International Taskforce on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, Steubenville, OH; Ann Jackson, Executive Director, Oregon Hospice Association, Portland,